



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION**

**PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY**

**November 17, 2014 • 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.  
The River House • 444 Ave A, Index, WA 98256**

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**SNOHOMISH COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Public Meeting • November 17, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**  
**The River House • 444 Ave A, Index, WA 98256**

**PROJECT:** Heybrook Ridge County Park

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Chris Mueller, PLA, Senior Park Planner; Friends of Heybrook Ridge Board Members and 20-30 additional community members (sign-in sheet withheld)

**PREPARED BY:** Chris Mueller, PLA, Senior Park Planner

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**MINUTES:**

**Project Background**

1. Draft Recreation Management Plan (RMP) and Existing Conditions Aerial were displayed at the front of the room. 11x17 copies of the RMP were located on tables and circulated throughout the room.
2. Introductions were made and meeting purpose was outlined.
3. Site location & Boundary was explained.
4. Current status of the site was discussed - The 143 acre property is currently undeveloped with no park amenities or public access.
5. Project History was discussed - The Heybrook site was acquired in 2008 through a public-private partnership with the Friends of Heybrook Ridge (FOHR). The effort to save the ridge began in 2006 when local residents learned that the ridge would be clear cut. Through negotiations with the property owner, the community was able to secure a delay in the logging operation. The Friends of Heybrook Ridge and later the Cascade Land Conservancy began fundraising to purchase the property and preserve the forest. As the deadline to complete fundraising neared, the Friends of Heybrook Ridge approached Snohomish County Parks and elected officials for help in making the acquisition.
6. Utilizing a \$700,000 Conservation Futures grant and a \$550,000 donation from the FOHR, Snohomish County Parks completed the acquisition in 2008.
7. Parks has been working closely with the FOHR for about 6 yrs. to plan trails and environmental education facilities at the site.
8. A big part of this process has been securing a viable trailhead site for the park. After exploring numerous trailhead options, parks decided the best solution was to pursue acquisition of additional land on the north side of the ridge.
9. In 2013, Parks applied for and was awarded an additional \$299,000 Conservation Futures grant to acquire property for trailhead development and park expansion.
10. Parks closed on acquisition of the primary trailhead site October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
11. In addition, in early 2014 the FOHR acquired a 10 acre parcel on the south side of the ridge and donated it to the County. This parcel, known as the Heybrook Annex is not directly adjacent to the park. Parks is working with the Forest Service to establish an access trail to the property— which has excellent views to Canyon Falls.

## **Current Project Description**

1. The current planning effort for the park is focused on development of a Recreation Management Plan for the site. This plan will guide construction and maintenance of passive recreation elements such as trails and viewpoints.
2. Protective Covenants set forth in the property purchase and sales agreement, limit the allowable uses and require the site to be developed for the purposes of forest protection, environmental education and passive recreation.
3. The Recreation Management Plan will be adaptive in nature and it will allow for flexibility as new information and opportunities come up. The plan may be modified in the future to avoid ecologically sensitive areas, erosion prone slopes, user conflicts or other unforeseen site conditions. Modifications or additions may also occur to enhance the park recreational experience.
4. Since property was acquired in 2008, Parks has been working with the FOHR to inventory the site's unique features and ecological conditions.
5. Existing habitat and ecological conditions were evaluated and incorporated into the recreation planning process; However the RMP does not include detailed recommendations for vegetation and/or habitat management. Additional planning for vegetation and habitat management will be conducted in the future as needs and/or opportunities arise.
6. Site highlights include:
  - a. High Quality Forests
  - b. Seasonal stream at base of ridge on N side.
  - c. Slight views to town and town wall from N side
  - d. Previously logged area on S. Side with views to Bridal Veil Falls, Mt. Index and surrounding S. Fork valley.
  - e. Unique location with possibility to connect state, town and USFS trail systems.
  - f. Views to Canyon Falls and S. Fork Skykomish valley from Annex property
7. Due to the steep terrain, there are limited options for routing trails on the site.
8. In addition, given the sites relatively small size, a complex network of trails and loops is not feasible.
9. Trail Linkage – Snohomish County Parks is working with partner agencies including the U.S Forest Service, State Parks, State DNR and the Town of Index to plan and develop and improve trail linkage across multiple facilities in the Index area.
10. Parking – Parking at the primary trailhead will not be provided as part of initial park development. The need for trailhead parking will be monitored and evaluated over time and may be made available in the future.

## **Q & A / Discussion**

1. Concern was raised over possible unauthorized parking on Hwy 2: A Trail to Hwy 2 is currently a low priority and will only be built if there is a strong desire from the community to have access at this location. Due to steep terrain this trail would likely be hiker only and expensive to build.
2. Clarification was requested regarding available conservation futures funding and if it could be used for park improvements: It can only be used for acquisition related expenses such as survey, signage and gate work.
3. Clarification on whether or not dogs would be allowed on trails was requested: Yes, but scoop and leash laws will be in effect.
4. Possible connection / linkage with the Pacific Crest Trail was suggested.

5. Restrooms were discussed: Due to the low level of developed amenities and costs associated with installation and maintenance, restrooms are not planned for this site. Portable restrooms may be provided if facilities become necessary.
6. Parking was discussed: Parking will not be included in Phase 1 of project development. Parking may be included in the future if user levels warrant development. Parks does not want to develop a parking lot unless it is needed due to the cost of construction and maintenance as well as potential problems with dumping and vandalism. Parks has met with the Town Council and they do not have immediate concerns regarding potential increased on-street parking, however they requested that a plan to address future parking needs be put in place in case problems arise.
7. As has been done by the previous private owner of the Heybrook trailhead property, parking will continue to be allowed for special events, festivals and other similar events in town. A facility reservation will need to be made with the Parks department prior to such events.
8. Plans for gates and property boundary markers were discussed: The main park boundary has already been surveyed with boundary markers installed. Additional gates, fencing and markers will be placed on new acquisitions and as needed in problem areas.
9. The need for trash cans was discussed: Parks typically has a Pack-it-in Pack-it-out policy at sites like Heybrook; and is currently expanding this policy to include more highly developed parks. Due to distance, it would be challenging for Parks to maintain trash cans on this site. If the site becomes very popular a centralized dumpster may be provided, but they tend to encourage household dumping problems.
10. What kind of plants and animals are found on site?: Response provided by friends of Heybrook Ridge and participants directed to Parks and Friends web site for more detailed information.
11. A question was asked about possible land acquisition and trail connections to the area south of the S. Fork: Parks does not have plans to acquire land in this area and making a connection from Heybrook to this area would be difficult. USFS may have plans to expand trailhead facilities in this area.
12. Trail width and design parameters were discussed.
13. Proposed trail multiple-use was discussed including ways to minimize potential conflicts between horses and bikes.

### **Future Plans / Next Steps**

1. Upon completion of the Recreation Management Plan, Snohomish County Parks will begin implementation of the Phase 1 Trail Construction project. This project will create a trail approximately 2 miles long from the trailhead in the Town of Index to the top of the ridge. The phase 1 trail will end on the south side of the ridge in a previously logged area with views to Bridal Veil Falls, Mt. Index, and the surrounding Skykomish valley.
2. Over the next several years, Snohomish County Parks will work with the Friends of Heybrook Ridge to fully implement the park Recreation Management Plan.
3. Additional improvements including parking may be made in the future to enhance environmental education and passive recreation opportunities at the park.



# Heybrook Ridge County Park

Public Meeting - November 17th, 2014

## Summary of Written Comments

11 survey / comment sheets were received during the meeting. The survey was also posted on the Parks Department website and as of 12-24-14, one additional comment sheet was submitted. Written comments & responses from all individual survey's are transcribed below.

### 1. Draft Recreation Management Plan – Let us know what you like and/or dislike about the draft plan presented tonight. Feel free to provide specific feedback on proposed improvements and their design.

I like it!

I foresee negative impacts on the very limited parking by the museum that already gets filled on summer weekends and afternoons. The historical society owns those spots, not the town, and there is no other beach/river access. Horse unloading / loading space also is limited and could present a safety issue crossing Index-Galena Road. The toilet issue is a concern. It's an ongoing problem at the climber's and forest service (old sportsmen's) sites, especially when seasonal sani-cans are removed.

I love the multi-use idea. Yea for horses! Yea for cyclists.

Sounds great!

Looks good!

Absolutely do not like idea of town parking for the park. I will oppose any way possible. Not sure of mixing bikers with foot traffic. You should look at Whistler for ideas on bike trail - Very costly

High use trails are being ruined by humans who leave behind their dog's waste. (ask USFS about lake serene trail.)

I like the plan a lot!

No Response

4

### 2. Missing Elements – Is there something we have missed? What else would you like to see done to improve the park?

Traffic safety crossing Index-Galena Road. It should have a crosswalk and a 3-way stop, especially important on weekends when the sun is low in drivers eyes. Might BPA want to widen their ROW in the future or restrict access due to security concerns?

I'd like to see trails for disabled folks. Motorized wheelchairs, "rascals" etc... Sanicans are a good idea.

Will future trailhead be gated to prevent informal parking?

I would love to see the Trap & Haul facility included as a side trip.

Parking & Restroom

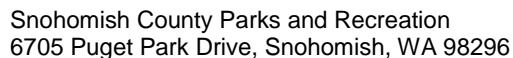
As a landowner of adjacent property I'm hopeful that private boundaries will be clearly marked / gated. Especially the BPA powerline easement.

Something added that may attract native birds

No Response

5

<b>3. About how often do you plan to visit the park?</b>	
Multiple times per week	3
Weekly	3
Monthly	3
Other: Several times per month	1
Other: Maybe once	1
No Response	1
<b>4. What types of passive recreation do you participate in? (circle/list all that apply)</b>	
Hiking	10
Mt. Biking	2
Equestrian / Pack & Saddle	2
Other: Geocaching	1
No Response	2
<b>5. How close do you live to the park?</b>	
0-1 mi.	8
1-5 mi.	1
5-20 mi.	1
20+ mi.	0
No Response	2
<b>6. If you live near the park, how long have you lived there?</b>	
0-1 years	0
1-5 years	3
5-10 years	1
10+ years	6
Other: 40+ years	1
No Response	1
<b>7. Please share any other comments, suggestions and/or interesting history you may have related to the Park:</b>	
No Horses Please.	
I would like to see more archaeological work done and incorporation of Skykomish tribal use pre-contact. That should actually go back to Olcott culture times, as artifacts have been found at the river confluence, e.g.	
Who will pay for law enforce. Not interested in listening to barking dog left in cars— parked in town. It will happen.... What I don't care for: #1 Lack of parking; #2 No restrooms; #3 lack of money for #1 & #2; #4 Mtn bikes vs foot traffic; #5 Transferring your parking and restroom problems to the town of Index. We can not afford the expense that is your responsibility.	
Please allow equestrian use! It would be wise to not try and attract horses, and it may not be able to remain open to horses, but I hope you will start out allowing it.	
Thank you for being so perfect to work with. I'm looking forward with excitement to walking the trails	
No Response	7

Public Meeting November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014

1. **Draft Recreation Management Plan** – Let us know what you like and/or dislike about the draft plan presented tonight. Feel free to provide specific feedback on proposed improvements and their design.

2. **Missing Elements** – Is there something we have missed? What else would you like to see done to improve the park?

- 3. About how often do you plan to visit the park?**

Multiple times per week      Weekly      Monthly      Or \_\_\_\_\_

- 4. What types of passive recreation do you participate in?** *(circle / list all that apply)*

Hiking	Mt. Biking	Equestrian / Pack & Saddle	Other
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4
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100	100	100	100

5. How close do you live to the park?      0-1 mi.      1-5 mi.      5-20 mi.      20+ mi.

- 6. If you live near the park, how long have you lived there?**

0-1 yr.                      1-5 yrs.                      5-10 yrs.                      10+ yrs.

7. Please share any other comments, suggestions and/or interesting history you may have related to the Park:



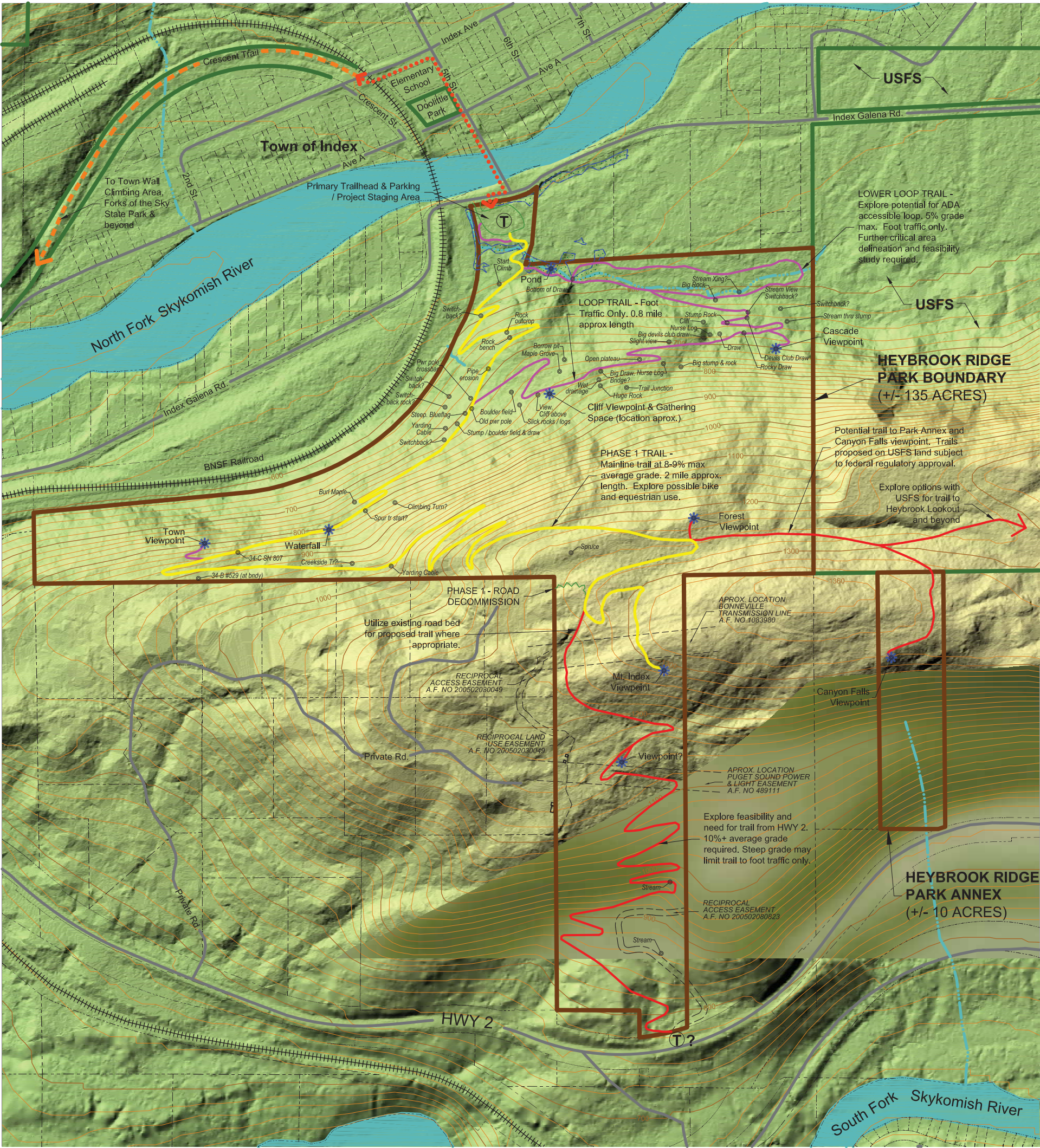
# Heybrook Ridge County Park

## Recreation Management Plan

DRAFT



Snohomish County Parks and Recreation  
www.snocoparks.org



### Management Guidelines and Notes:

- All trails shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with current editions of the Forest Service Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Trails, the Forest Service Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook and the following specifications:
  - Trees shall only be removed upon approval and tagging by the Parks Arborist and/or Project Manager.
  - Provide grade reversals every 20 to 50 feet (approx.).
  - Trails shall be built using full-bench construction. If necessary, partial-bench construction may be used upon approval by the Project Manager.
  - Trail tread shall be constructed from site mineral soil and/or rock. Imported materials may be used upon approval by the Project Manager. All finished trail tread surfaces shall be free draining without low spots where water might collect.
  - Construct passing turnouts on all future multi-use trails at approximately 1000 foot intervals.
  - Trails shall be constructed using the following design parameters<sup>1</sup>:
- The Recreation Management Plan is intended serve as a guide for adaptive management of trails and other passive recreation elements within the Park. As new information becomes available the plan may be modified. Modifications may be made to avoid ecologically sensitive areas, erosion prone slopes, user conflicts and/or other unforeseen site conditions. Modifications and/or additions may also occur to enhance the park recreational experience. Significant vegetation and/or habitat management activities must be planned and approved by the Parks Project Manager prior to implementation
- All proposed trail alignments are approximate. Final alignments to be determined in the field and approved by the Parks Project Manager prior to construction.
- All imported construction materials shall be approved in writing by the Project Manager prior to delivery. To prevent the introduction of noxious weeds, soil should only be imported using extreme caution. Soil from the project staging area should not be moved due to the presence of noxious weeds.
- For trails are open to bike use, provide speed control elements and trim vegetation to improve sight distance at intersections and switchbacks.
- All signage must be approved by Project Manager prior to installation.
- The need for parking improvements at the north trailhead will be evaluated after completion of initial trail construction.
- Pet owners must obey County leash (SCC 22.16.10) and scoop law (SCC 22.16.30). With conservation as the primary goal for this site, the County must ensure wildlife protection and habitat preservation. If problems arise associated, the Parks Department reserves the right to limit or restrict pets in the park.
- Trails to and from private property are prohibited. Any existing trails leading to private property shall be maintained in a closed condition.
- A complete wetland delineation has not been performed on this site. Wetland information shown is a composite of County GIS information, partial delineation and field observations. Additional unmapped wetlands exist.

DESIGN VARIABLE <sup>1</sup>		MULTI-USE TRAIL HIKE - BIKE - PACK & SADDLE	FOOT ONLY TRAIL
DESIGN TREAD WIDTH	Single Lane Trailbed	30" - 48" (40" Typical) (48" At steep side slopes)	12" - 24" (May be 36" - 48" at steep side slopes)
	Turnouts	60" - 84"	36" - 48" (if required)
	Structures	Other than bridges: 36" Min.	18" Min.
DESIGN SURFACE	Native with onsite borrow or imported material where needed.	May be intermittently to frequently rough. Obstacles up to 10" ht.	May be continuously rough. Obstacles up to 14" ht.
	Target Average: Min. - Max.	3% - 10%	3% - 12%
	Short Pitch Max. Grade	15% - Up to 50' lengths	20% - Up to 200' lengths <sup>2</sup>
DESIGN GRADE	Max. Pitch Density	10 - 20% of trail	10 - 20% of trail
	Target Cross Slope	5%	5%
	Min. - Max. Cross Slope	3% - 8%	3% - 15%
DESIGN CROSS SLOPE	Height	10'	7' - 8'
	Width	Trailway width to 8' & 3' Pack Clearance	2' - 5'

<sup>1</sup> Deviations from the design parameters may be approved by the project manager if necessary to work around existing site features.  
<sup>2</sup> Foot trail maximum grade may be steeper with steps or hardened surfaces.  
<sup>3</sup> Design Parameters adapted from United States Forest Service National Design Parameters



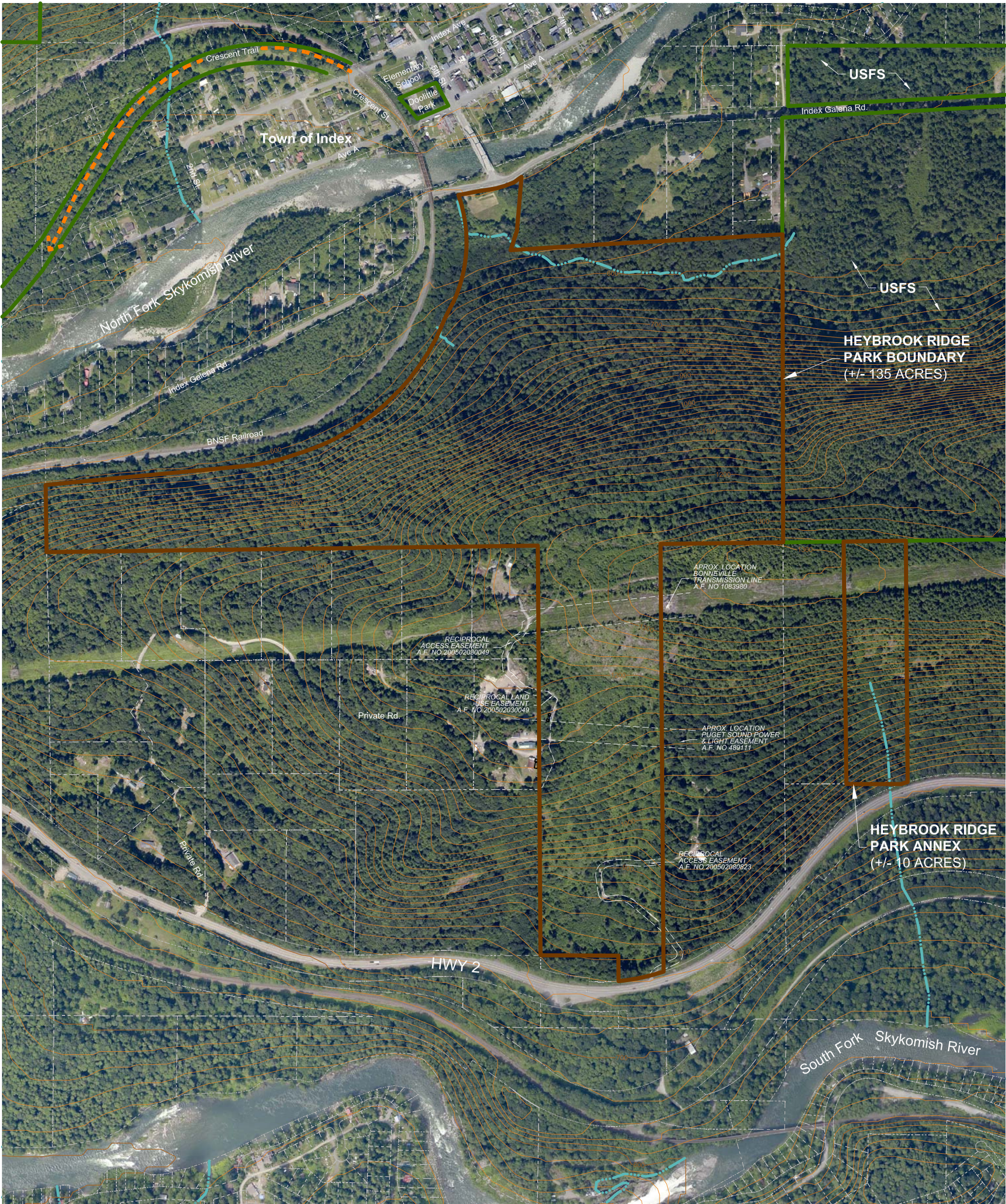
Existing conditions information for this plan was derived from Snohomish County GIS data, partial boundary survey and GPS data collected by the Parks & Recreation Department. All existing and proposed features are approximate.

LEGEND		County Park Boundary		Proposed Phase 1 Trail – Built to Multi-Use Design Parameters		Viewpoints	REVISION	DATE	BY
		Boundary Other Public Lands		Proposed Trail (Future Phase) – Explore Multi-Use Feasibility		Trailhead Locations	DRAFT - Public Review	11-12-14	CEM
		Parcel Boundary		Proposed Trail (Future Phase) – Foot Traffic Only					
		Stream / Watercourse		Potential Regional Trail Link. – Route & Feasibility T.B.D.					
		Wetland		Existing Trail / Trail Corridor		Unique Site Features			

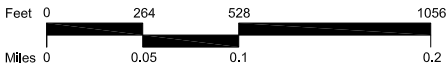


# Heybrook Ridge County Park

Existing Conditions Aerial View



Existing conditions information for this plan was derived from Snohomish County GIS data, 2012 aerial photography, partial boundary survey and GPS data collected by the Parks & Recreation Department. All existing features are approximate.



CONTOUR  
INTERVAL = 20'



REVISION	DATE	BY
DRAFT	11-3-14	CEM